

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BARBARA DEE BRADFORD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Barbara Dee Bradford. After 21 years, Barbie, as she is warmly known by friends and coworkers, is retiring from her post as Director of the Learning Center at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas.

Barbie began her career at UNT in 1988 as a counselor in the Counseling and Testing Center, and has spent her entire career at UNT dedicated to student success and learning. In 1998 she created the Learning Center and has served as its only Director. Under her leadership, the Center has grown from an office with only one full-time employee and a handful of student workers to one that has seven full-time staff, several graduate assistants, and hundreds of student workers.

Barbie implemented Supplemental Instruction at UNT, a program where students who have recently completed a course return in future semesters and serve as study session tutors for those in the class. This successful program has helped improve the grades of thousands of students at UNT. Today, the Volunteer Tutor program thrives, and hundreds of students volunteer their time to assist other students.

Barbie has devoted time, even on weekends, to assist parents with their child's transition to UNT. For ten years, she has delivered a presentation to parents at each summer orientation session. Barbie uses personal examples to help parents feel at ease. Over the years, she has received numerous phone calls from parents and had students show up on her door. In all those situations, Barbie has welcomed the opportunity to be of assistance to the student, and the family.

Barbie has mentored hundreds of students, graduate students and staff members. Whether the students worked in her office or appeared at her door, she always has taken time to provide guidance and lend an ear. All who have worked for Barbie hold her in the highest regard.

Barbie is a walking example of a lifelong learner and exemplifies that to all with whom she comes in contact, which has allowed her to positively influence the lives of thousands of students over her 21 years at UNT. As a proud alumnus, I appreciate her dedication in support of their academic success as they build the foundations for their future.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today and recognize Barbie Bradford for her years of dedication and selfless service to the University of North Texas. I am proud to represent her and UNT in the United States Congress.

HONORING FRED MACHADO

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Fred Machado upon being named the "2009 Agriculturist of the Year" by the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Machado will be recognized at the annual Agricultural Awards luncheon on November 18, 2009 in Fresno, California.

In 1932, Mr. Fred Machado was born in the Azores region of Portugal. At the age of sixteen he migrated to the United States with his family. When he arrived in the U.S. he began working as a farm laborer doing jobs that included milking cows for two hundred and fifty dollars a month. He enjoyed the work and took to the dairy industry quickly, but decided to join the United States Navy. In 1955, after leaving the Navy he had saved enough money to purchase a twenty-acre plot in Easton, just west of Fresno, California. During the 1950's, Mr. Machado established a dairy with fifty cows, the company grew, quickly reaching fifteen hundred heifers.

Over the years, Mr. Machado's land increased from twenty-acres to an eight hundred-acre farming operation that produces almonds, grapes, orchards and feed crops. Until this year the farm also included the dairy, however with unprecedented low prices for milk, the Machado family decided to retire from the dairy business.

Mr. Machado is a very active member of the community. He has served on the boards of the National Milk Producers Federation, Challenge Dairy, Danish Creamery and numerous community organizations. Mr. Machado has been active with the Fresno County Farm Bureau for over fifty years, serving in multiple leadership positions including serving as the Eastern Center Co-Chairman, and as president from 1972–1974.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Frank Machado upon being named the "2009 Agriculturist of the Year." I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Machado many years of continued success.

HONORING CORNELIS J.H. VAN DE VELDE PH.D., M.D.

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Cornelis J.H. van de Velde Ph.D., M.D. For his commitment to the fight against cancer and his participation at the Tony Snow Cancer Symposium in The Villages, Florida on January 21. Hosted by the Caring and Sharing Vil-

lagers and the Alliance Healthcare Foundation, the Tony Snow Cancer Symposium is intended to raise funds for the creation of a \$25 million cancer center next to Leesburg Regional Hospital and promote cancer awareness in our community.

Currently serving as Professor of Surgical Oncology at the Leiden University Medical Center in Leiden, the Netherlands, Dr. van de Velde has supervised over 50 Ph.D. theses, coordinated 14 projects of the Netherlands Cancer Foundation, six health insurance fund projects, six European randomized breast cancer studies, and four European randomized colorectal cancer studies.

In addition to serving as a professor at the Leiden University Medical Center, he is the center's Coordinator of Oncology and sits on numerous committees there. He serves as Chairman of the Dutch Royal Academy of Sciences, founded and was the first Chairman of the Dutch Colorectal Cancer Group, the Dutch Gastric Cancer Group and the Dutch Breast Cancer Group. Dr. van de Velde has also been the President of the European Society of Surgical Oncology since 2008 and is currently Vice President of the European Cancer Society.

Dr. van de Velde was recognized in 1999 as an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in London and the Royal College of Surgeons and Physicians in Glasgow.

Madam Speaker, individuals such as Cornelis van de Velde should be recognized for their sincere dedication to improving the health and quality of life for people all over the world. With the passing of my husband Harvey to pancreatic cancer, I can personally attest to the effects of cancer on both a person and their family. I sincerely appreciate the work that Dr. van de Velde has done and wish him further success in his medical endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 98TH BIRTHDAY OF RUBY HARTLEY BARTON

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to the special life of Ruby Hartley Barton of Talladega, Alabama.

Mrs. Barton was born on December 15, 1911 in Georgia to James and Victoria Hartley. Mrs. Barton's father died while she was a baby, and her mother raised her and her six brothers and sisters. Mrs. Barton grew up in a farming and textile family.

She was married to the late B.W. Barton for over 50 years and was blessed with two sons, Charles D. Barton and Larry H. Barton and one daughter, Edith Barton Bishop. Mrs. Barton now has three grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Mrs. Barton worked at Bemis Mills for close to 40 years and has spent her life serving God

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

and volunteering in her church as a Sunday School teacher, choir director and pianist.

On December 15th, her friends and family will celebrate her birthday in her room at Talladega Health Care in Talladega. Today I would like to wish Mrs. Ruby Hartley Barton a very Happy 98th Birthday.

PROMOTING JOBS FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2009

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Promoting Jobs for Veterans Act of 2009.

Last week the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that during the month of November there were over one million unemployed veterans in this country. The report also showed that the unemployment rate among our newest cohort of veterans ages 18–24 remains extremely high at 20 percent. Moreover, 700,000 of that million are between the ages of 35 and 64, the years of both the highest earning power and the highest financial needs to pay mortgages and tuitions. I ask unanimous consent that the relevant page from the December Bureau of Labor Statistics Report be included in the RECORD with my remarks.

These numbers paint a very disturbing picture of the obstacles veterans face. These men and women have put their lives on the line in the defense of freedom and democracy around the globe, so we must do a better job of helping these warriors find suitable employment opportunities when they return home.

That is why I have introduced the Promoting Jobs for Veterans Act of 2009. The first title of this bill focuses on providing funding and incentives for veterans to pursue training and education that would provide employment opportunities for them in the new economy. It would create a new troops to teachers program to pay new teachers who are veterans and are teaching in a rural area \$500 a month stipend. It would also provide a zip code based housing stipend for unemployed veterans who are participating in a VA approved OJT/Apprenticeship Program.

The second title of the bill focuses on promoting and expanding veteran owned and service disabled veteran owned small businesses. It would reauthorize the VA Veteran Owned Small Business Loan Guaranty Program which would guarantee loans for veteran owned small businesses up to \$500,000. It would also allow VA to enter into sole source contracts with veteran owned small businesses in the same way they can with 8(a) firms.

According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, firms with fewer than 500 employees accounted for 64 percent—or 14.5 million—of the 22.5 million net new jobs between 1993 and the third quarter of 2008. I firmly believe that veteran owned small businesses can become a driving force in this nation's recovery and this bill will help make that a reality.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this needed legislation.

HONORING ERROTABERE RANCH

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Errotabere Ranch upon being the recipient of the 2009 Baker, Peterson and Franklin Ag Business Award by the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Dan Errotabere of Errotabere Ranch will be recognized at the annual Agricultural Awards luncheon on November 18, 2009 in Fresno, California.

Errotabere Ranch is a family operated farm in Riverdale, California and was first established in the 1920's by Mr. Jean Errotabere. By 1979, when Mr. Errotabere passed away, the farm had expanded to include 800 acres of cotton. Today, brothers Dan, Jean Jr., and Remi operate a six thousand-acre diversified farming operation which includes pima cotton, almonds, pistachios, tomatoes, garlic, onions, alfalfa seed, wheat, lettuce and cantaloupes in the Riverdale and the Five Points areas. Each brother is responsible for a specific facet of the business including the finances, crop production and farm equipment. Over the years the family has applied progressive water techniques and technology to better utilize the scarce water resources on the ranch.

The Errotabere family has a long history of community involvement. They have held many leadership roles in the agricultural industry and community organizations. Dan has been an advocate for agricultural water issues, serving on several water-related boards. Dan is also heavily involved with the Fresno County Farm Bureau, currently serving as president. All three brothers are actively involved with Riverdale schools and the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology at California State University, Fresno. The family supports Community Medical Centers, Children's Hospital Central California and has been active in the local United Cerebral Palsy Association.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Errotabere Ranch upon being honored as the 2009 Baker, Peterson and Franklin Ag Business Award. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Errotabere Ranch many years of continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "NO SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS FOR PRISONERS ACT OF 2009"

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, today, I have introduced legislation that will treat retroactive Social Security and Supplemental Security Income payments due to prisoners consistent with the way ongoing monthly payments are treated.

The "No Social Security Benefits for Prisoners Act of 2009" would prevent retroactive Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefit payments from being issued to individuals while they are in prison, along with beneficiaries in violation of conditions of parole or probation, or who are fleeing to avoid pros-

ecution for a felony or a crime punishable by sentence of more than one year.

The Social Security Act already bars payment of current monthly benefits to such individuals. This bill ensures this prohibition applies to retroactive benefit payments as well, and allows payments to be paid once the beneficiary is no longer prohibited from receiving payments under the provisions of this bill.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH IN ROANOKE, TEXAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I stand today to recognize and congratulate St. Peter Lutheran Church in Roanoke, Texas, as they celebrate the groundbreaking for their first facility.

St. Peter Lutheran Church was founded in September of 2006, when a small group of 37 families from Roanoke and surrounding cities in North Texas decided to plant a new church in their rapidly growing community. The congregation met under the guidance of Pastor Robert Baldur in a school gym, and later in the Roanoke Recreation Center.

The church's small beginnings did not stop them from reaching out to the community. Members of St. Peter Lutheran Church actively contribute to their community in many ways, such as participating in Habitat for Humanity, providing free games and activities for local children at city events, holding food and supply drives for local food pantries, among countless other acts of generosity. The church even has its own barbequeing team—the Holy Smokers—who use their grilling and smoking talents to serve others.

The church now encompasses over 100 families, and is still growing. Their rapidly increasing size has led them to purchase 11 acres of land in Roanoke, where they will break ground on Sunday, December 6, 2009, and build their first multi-use church facility. Future plans also include a school, Concordia Academy, which will one day serve and educate children throughout North Texas.

Madam Speaker, St. Peter Lutheran Church is a shining light in Roanoke, Texas. I am extremely proud to represent Pastor Baldur and the entire church congregation in the 26th Congressional District. Their service to the community is valued and appreciated, and I look forward to watching the church grow, and observing the positive impact they will continue to have in North Texas.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TUSCO COMPOSITE SQUADRON OH-277, CIVIL AIR PATROL, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the Tusco Composite Squadron, founded in 1989, is celebrating 20 years of commendable service in Tuscarawas County, and

Whereas, three founding members—Lt. Betty Turnbull, Lt. Marilyne Shanks and Lt. Wayne Shanks—have served their unit since its inception, and

Whereas, the Tusco Composite Squadron has assisted the community by securing crash sites, helping with disaster relief efforts, and other services, and

Whereas, the Tusco Composite Squadron has been the recipient of numerous awards pertaining to their work and services; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the Tusco Composite Squadron OH-277 on 20 years of service to the community and the Air Force.

**NORTHWEST STRAITS MARINE
CONSERVATION INITIATIVE ACT
(H.R. 1672)**

SPEECH OF

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative Reauthorization Act, H.R. 1672.

Throughout the 1980s and early 1990s the marine waters of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the San Juan Islands and northern Puget Sound, collectively known as the Northwest Straits, experienced substantial environmental decline. This was concerning because local communities rely on the resources of the Northwest Straits to create good-paying jobs and many iconic and endangered species, including orca whales and pacific salmon, rely on the Northwest Straits for food and habitat.

In 1997, Senator PATTY MURRAY and Congressman Jack Metcalf convened a blue-ribbon commission to examine ways to reverse this trend and restore the health of the Northwest Straits. In 1998, Congress adopted the Murray-Metcalf Commission's recommendations when it authorized the creation of the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Commission, a grassroots organization which does not exercise regulatory authority but harnesses the energy of local communities to develop and implement conservation and restoration projects.

For the last 11 years, the Northwest Straits Commission has done great work to restore the Northwest Straits. Their projects have helped create jobs and protect endangered and threatened species.

The Northwest Straits Commission has demonstrated the ability to implement challenging recovery projects. The Commission used \$4.5 million of funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to remove hundreds of acres of abandoned fishing gear from the seafloor. This project created jobs for out-of-work fisherman and saved the lives of endangered species.

The legislation under consideration on the House floor today would extend the legislative authorization of the Northwest Straits Commis-

sion for an additional five years. It will increase tribal participation in the Commission and improve oversight of its activities.

H.R. 1672 has earned the support of our local community—I have received letters of support for this legislation from elected officials, businesspeople and environmentalists in every county in which the Northwest Straits Commission operates.

Similar legislation has been introduced in the United States Senate by my friend Senator PATTY MURRAY. I hope that our joint effort will help to protect and restore the Northwest Straits for the people, fish, and threatened wildlife which rely on it.

**CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FALL OF THE
BERLIN WALL**

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, it was 20 years ago November 9, 1989, that the most notorious symbol of the Cold War, The Iron Curtain, came crashing down. When the Berlin Wall was opened for "private trips abroad", thousands lined up at check points demanding passage. In the following days and weeks, hundreds celebrated by physically tearing down the concrete division so completely that very little of the actual wall remains.

The Berlin Wall was erected by the German Democratic Republic in 1961 separating Eastern and Western Germany to stop migration of East Germans trying to escape communism. The wall had many deterrents for those looking for escape. Its total border length around West Berlin was ninety-six miles with forty-one miles of wire mesh fencing, sixty-five miles of anti-vehicle trenches, and seventy-nine miles of contact or signal fence. It has been reported that between 136 and 192 people were killed on the Berlin Wall and about 200 persons injured by shooting while attempting to escape between 1961 and 1989.

November 9, 2009, two decades later, thousands cheered as colorfully decorated mammoth dominos set along a mile-long route were toppled; symbolizing the wall coming down and the fall of communist countries in Eastern Europe. On this day, we remember those brave, proud people who stood up to say no more!

HONORING ANDREW SCOTT RICE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an amazing boy from Texas. His name is Drew Scott Rice, and he is a cancer survivor and amputee. Drew has experienced some difficult times, but his strong character has made it possible for him to live a healthy active life.

At the age of six, Drew was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma Cancer on April 30, 2004. His treatment consisted of fourteen rounds of

chemotherapy and the amputation of his left leg.

Drew returned to school on crutches after missing nine months for treatment. Even with missing so much school, he was able to continue his academics at the same grade level.

Even more surprisingly, Drew began playing baseball only three months post treatment. Drew has successfully adapted to his prosthetic leg as if it was second nature. He has played a total sixteen seasons between two leagues as a 1st baseman, 3rd baseman, and pitcher.

Drew has also shared his strength with other patients. He has visited cancer victims and amputees at San Antonio area hospitals and homes to offer encouragement and hope that they too can overcome their hardships.

As of December 10, 2009 Drew has been cancer free for five years. I am honored to speak of Andrew's strength here today and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Drew as an inspiration and role model to those who suffer from cancer and or amputation.

HONORING MARIA GROVNER

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize Georgia's Middle School Counselor of the Year, Maria Grovner. A native of McIntosh County Georgia, Ms. Grovner is the middle school counselor at Creekland Middle School in Gwinnett County Georgia. Before receiving the honor of being named Middle School Counselor of The Year, Ms. Grovner was recognized as Gwinnett County's Counselor of the Year and as the Region II Middle School Counselor of the Year.

As a result of Ms. Grovner's hard work and numerous undertakings, it is no surprise that she has received these accolades. In addition to implementing numerous student activities and promoting diversity and early college awareness at the middle school level, Ms. Grovner coordinates a Peer Leadership Conference for approximately 600 middle school peer leaders. Additionally, the Georgia School Counselors Association is fortunate to have Ms. Grovner serving as the Mentoring Program Co-Chair and as the Middle School Worksetting Vice-President. As Worksetting Vice-President, Ms. Grovner assists other middle school counselors throughout the state in implementing the best practices in their counseling programs.

Ms. Grovner's dedication to her profession and the students she serves is admirable and exemplary. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Maria Grovner as the State of Georgia's Middle School Counselor of the Year.

VILLAGE OF ARGYLE IN MISSOURI

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Village of Argyle,

located in Maries and Osage counties, in Missouri.

I would like to acknowledge the Village of Argyle as its residents prepare to celebrate the milestone of their centennial this upcoming June.

In the beginning of the 20th century, a group of Scottish-Irish surveyors made their way to the Midwest and were preparing to build a rail bed for the St. Louis, Kansas City and Colorado railroad to run between Kansas City and St. Louis. This spurred the formation of a town.

The area, once known as Sanbonfass, after St. Boniface, was named Argyle after a shire in the Isles of Scotland called Argyll. The Village was incorporated in 1908, and the rock island line brought prosperity to the village shortly thereafter. Today the Village is home to about 170 of my constituents, all of whom I know are proud to call Argyle home.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing the residents of the Village of Argyle congratulations on reaching this important milestone.

DAKOTA COMMUNITIES

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, recently I met with representatives of Dakota Communities—an award-winning 37 year old non-profit organization that helps people with disabilities realize their potential in their lives and communities.

In Minnesota's Third Congressional District, there are over fifty direct support professionals who have dedicated their careers to working for several group homes. These hard-working, talented men and women have repeatedly demonstrated their dedication to caring for those with disabilities. For their efforts and the positive impact these efforts will have in the lives of so many, I am extremely grateful.

IN MEMORY OF A SOUTH TEXAS HERO, BILL SUMMERS

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor in memoriam the dedication and outstanding leadership of Mr. Bill Summers, who led the Rio Grande Valley Partnerships as its CEO for 20 years until his passing on Monday, December 1.

Mr. Summers, who spent 2 decades promoting South Texas and Mexico, as the two areas worked in unison to attract business opportunities and economic development to the region, was a pillar of South Texas. He was the unsung hero of the Rio Grande Valley, who is credited with bringing together local governments, economic development organizations and Chambers of Commerce to bring jobs and a better way of life to our communities.

Through his vision and tireless work for the Rio Grande Valley, he was able to secure

business opportunities and ventures with Mexico and most importantly, the state of Tamaulipas, which borders Texas. Mr. Summers worked tirelessly to unite the South Texas region and to create economic growth and prosperity for the area.

He was key in establishing, opening and maintaining the first Texas Chamber of Commerce office in Victoria, Tamaulipas, Mexico, to promote trade and tourism of the South Texas region into Mexico.

Through Mr. Summer's work in Texas, the nation and Mexico, he was able to improve the lives of many by growing jobs and pushing for economic opportunities. He was instrumental in the creation of the Rio Grande Valley Mobility Task Force, which brought additional transportation funding to South Texas and pushed for the creation of an interstate highway.

Recently, he was honored when Farm-to-Market Road 1015 between U.S. Highway 83 and the Progreso International Bridge was named the Bill Summers International Boulevard.

Although we have lost a great hero whom we all deeply cared for and loved, I am certain his love and passion for the Rio Grande Valley will remain in our hearts and spirits for years and years to come. We will always remember Mr. Summers as a wise man who worked for the good. We will remember Mr. Summers as a man who could do it all.

Today, I ask that my colleagues join me in commemorating the life of Mr. Bill Summers, who served this nation with dignity, honor, respect and admiration.

CLEAN AIR AND WATER INVESTMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Clean Air and Water Investment Act of 2009. This legislation will restore tax exempt bonding for air and water pollution control facilities.

Prior to the 1986 revision to the tax code, state authorized agencies and political subdivisions were permitted to administer tax exempt bonds to finance "air and water pollution control facilities." The program proved so effective that even facilities that were grandfathered, and not subject to clean air standards, were proactive participants, providing cleaner air and water for our communities.

As we continue to look for ways to assist businesses and local governments in their efforts to reduce pollution, these bonds provide an affordable solution that will put people to work while providing cleaner and healthier communities. This bill would restore a proven incentive for industry to invest in cleaner air and water. Importantly, because it falls under a pre-existing spending cap, this legislation will present no new liability to the U.S. Treasury.

Members on opposite sides of the aisle frequently may differ on many issues before this body, but this is not one of them. I am pleased to be working on this bill with Congressman KEVIN BRADY of Texas, a fellow Congressional baseball aficionado. Congressman BRADY has

been working on this issue for many years now, and I look forward to collaborating with him and seeing this bill signed into law.

I urge my colleagues to consider support this important legislation.

HONORING WILLIAM S. DALTON, PH.D., M.D.

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor William S. Dalton, Ph.D., M.D. for his commitment to the fight against cancer and his participation at the Tony Snow Cancer Symposium in The Villages, Florida, on January 21. Hosted by the Caring and Sharing Villagers and the Alliance Healthcare Foundation, the Tony Snow Cancer Symposium is intended to raise funds for the creation of a \$25 million Cancer Center next to Leesburg Regional Hospital and promote awareness in our community.

Dr. Dalton currently serves as the President/Chief Executive Officer and Center Director at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute in Tampa, Florida. The Moffitt Cancer Center is regarded as one of the top cancer facilities in the United States. With two decades of cancer research and contributions to over 200 publications, including the Journal of the American Medical Association and the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, Dr. Dalton has established himself as an expert in the fight against cancer.

Recognized as a "Best Doctor in America" since 1993, Dr. Dalton's primary areas of research include biochemical mechanisms of drug resistance, new drug discovery and the biology and treatment of multiple myeloma. He was also instrumental in obtaining the Molecular Oncology, Mopp, grant of \$5 million for the Moffitt Cancer Center in 2000.

Madam Speaker, individuals such as William S. Dalton should be recognized for their sincere dedication to improving the health and quality of life for people all over the world. With the passing of my husband Harvey to pancreatic cancer, I can personally attest to the affects of cancer on both a person and their family. I sincerely appreciate the work that Dr. Dalton has done and wish him further success in his medical endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHEROKEE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL WINNING THE ALABAMA 3A STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to the Piedmont High School football team in Piedmont, Alabama, who won the 2009 Alabama 3A State Football Championship.

On December 3, the Piedmont Bulldogs defeated Cordova High School by a score of 35-28 at Bryant-Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa,

Alabama. The Bulldogs finished the season with a record of 13–2.

Piedmont High School is located in northern Calhoun County, and their Bulldogs are coached by Steve Smith. The principal is Jerry Snow.

Congratulations to the Piedmont County High School Bulldogs football team, coaches, staff, and high school. All of us across Calhoun County and east Alabama are proud of these young people for their outstanding achievement.

HONORING ROBERT FOX, MAJOR
(RET.)

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague JIM COSTA, to commend and congratulate Robert Fox upon being honored the "Citizen Soldier Award" by Fresno City College. Major Fox was recognized on Friday, November 6, 2009 at the annual Veterans Peace Memorial event held at Fresno City College in Fresno, California.

Major Robert Fox enlisted in the Indiana National Guard in 1962, and became the first African American to be commissioned as a Second Lieutenant by the Officer Candidate School at the Indiana Military Academy. He served with National Guard units in Indiana and Iowa prior to fulfilling his service obligations. In 1980 Major Fox received a direct commission as a Captain (03) and was assigned to the 49th Military Police Brigade of the California Army National Guard.

Shortly after Major Fox assumed the Dean's position at Fresno City College, he was transferred to the 195th Transportation Battalion in Fresno, where he served as a staff officer. He was later selected to command the 2668th Transportation Company. During his tenure as Commander, the 2668th was selected on short notice to participate in Operation Team Spirit in the Republic of Korea. The unit was required to prepare assigned equipment, personnel and supplies to sustain the unit for forty days under combat conditions. The unit exceeded all time requirements in its preparation and performed in a meritorious manner during the exercise.

After assignment to the 115th Support Group in Roseville, California, Major Fox returned to the 185th Transportation Battalion with the rank of Major (04) as Battalion S–2/3 with the responsibility of training and operations. In 1994, Major Fox retired from the California National Guard after serving as Battalion Executive Director.

Major Fox's commitment to the welfare, professional development and career advancement of the non-commissioned officers and junior commissioned officers under his leadership were hallmarks of his service. His military education includes the completion of the Adjunct General Corps, Military Police Corps and Transportation Corps Basic Officer Courses; the Military Police Corps and Transportation Corps Advanced Officer Courses and attendance at the Command and General Staff School. For his service, Major Fox has been awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Cluster and the Army Achievement Medal.

Madam Speaker, Mr. COSTA and I rise today to commend and congratulate Major Robert Fox upon being recognized as a "Citizen Soldier." I invite my colleagues to join us in wishing Major Fox many years of continued success.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SAILORS WHO HAVE COMPLETED 1,000 DETERRENT PATROLS ON "OHIO" CLASS SUBMARINES

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to support H. Con. Res. 129. To congratulate the accomplishment of Submarine Sailors completing 1,000 *Ohio*-class deterrent patrols. The people of coastal Georgia have great pride in their Submarine Sailors. It started back in July 1978 when Kings Bay, Georgia was chosen to be home for the Trident missile submarines of the Atlantic Fleet. In November 1981 the USS *Ohio* was commissioned and became the first submarine to carry Trident Missiles. *Ohio* made her first patrol 27 years ago this month in December 1982. Over 20 years ago in January 1989 the USS *Tennessee* became the first *Ohio*-class submarine to be stationed in Kings Bay. In Spring 2008 USS *Georgia* returned to Kings Bay to start a new type of mission as an SSGN.

Ohio-class submarines are modern marvels as the sea-based leg of the strategic deterrence triad. SSBNs (or Boomers) have a wide range of capabilities and when directed by the President can rapidly target their missiles. Each Boomer can carry 24 Trident missiles with up to 8 warheads per missile. These missiles have a range of over 7,000 miles and can reach their target within 30 minutes. The warhead is accurate enough to hit the area the size of a baseball diamond with the destructive force of 475 kilotons of TNT. As impressive as these ships are, they are operated by the even more impressive Sailors of the submarine force. Our Sailors have faithfully safeguarded the Boomers without incident for 50 years. Our submarine Sailors have set the gold standard for nuclear surety in the world.

These Sailors are screened for physical, mental and psychological fitness to serve on submarines. They spend up to two years in school to know how to work on a submarine including cooking, plumbing, electrical repair, underwater maintenance, operating a nuclear powered propulsion plant and maintaining 100% reliability of the strategic missile system all of the time. Most of the crew is between 20 to 25 years old but some already have college degrees and all are volunteers. Within one year of first stepping onboard a submarine these Sailors earn their "Dolphins," a pin that signifies they are fully knowledgeable of the submarine's many technical systems and fully reliable during any casualty to be able to save the ship and their shipmates. They join the proud history and tradition of the submarine force with World War II submarine heroes like Mush Morton, Dick O'Kane and Admiral Eugene Fluckey. Because of the sacrifice and hard work of these Trident Sailors they have kept the 18 *Ohio*-class submarines in outstanding condition. These ships will last close

to ten years longer than their design life despite operating in the harsh conditions of the oceans.

For over 1,000 patrols the Sailors serving on *Ohio*-class submarines have moved on and off the ship during crew turnover. They bring their sea bag full of gear, photos of family and friends, some snacks, and nowadays their favorite DVDs and I-Tunes. During a two-month patrol they make the boat their home. Maybe once a week they get an email from home called Sailor Mail. They routinely do not actually talk to their wives, kids, family or friends for many weeks. This is a unique sacrifice especially during this age of global telecommunication.

During those 1,000 patrols while these Sailors were at sea, the rest of us could go to work everyday, worship on Sunday, take our kids to baseball practice after school, shop at the grocery store and fish in our lakes and streams without fear because these Sailors stood the watch and defended our homes. For this we are thankful every day.

I rise today to congratulate our nation's Submarine Sailors who completed 1,000 patrols on *Ohio*-class submarines on this day December 2, 2009.

CONGRATULATING THE CHAZY CENTRAL RURAL SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER TEAM

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chazy Central's boys' soccer team for their victory in the 2009 New York state soccer championship.

On Sunday the 22nd of November, high school soccer fans were treated to a great soccer match between some of the most skilled players in the state. The Chazy boys entered the state championship ranked as the number one team in their class and they carried that honor to the state championship, defeating Northville Central School in the final match.

I also want to extend my congratulations to Coach Rob McAuliffe, who built upon an impressive legacy to take our team to victory. I understand that since 1953, the Chazy boys' soccer team has had only four regular seasons without a winning record, and the elite status of these athletic young men could not have been reached without the 14 years of dedication from Coach McAuliffe.

I want to congratulate the boys' team of Kyle McCarthy, Brandon Laurin, Kaleb Snide, Tyler Bulriss, Shea Howley, Jordan Berriere, Andrew Rabideau, Nathan Reynolds, Andrew Duprey, Marc Oshier, Nolan Rogers, Dyllan Hack, Ian Anderson, Michael Santor, Matt Gravelle, and Austin Santor for all they have accomplished. Their teamwork sets a strong example for the community and reminds us all what is possible when we come together.

Once again, congratulations to Coach McAuliffe for his continuing efforts and to the Chazy Eagles on their success.

INTRODUCING THE DEPARTMENT
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ACQUISITION
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, today, I am introducing the Department of Veterans Affairs Acquisition Improvement Act of 2009. This legislation addresses serious long-term procurement problems within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and would provide the VA with greater oversight of its contracting and asset management processes.

VA has annual expenditures of more than \$14.1 billion for supplies, services, and construction. The Department of Veterans Affairs Acquisition Reform Act of 2009 is a first step to provide a centralized oversight and policy for contracting and acquisition within the Department by streamlining business operations under an Assistant Secretary for Acquisition, Construction and Asset Management. This bill will improve procurement processes by:

Establishing the position of the Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Acquisition, Construction and Asset Management who would serve as the Chief Acquisition Officer for the VA.

Providing an appropriate structure for acquisition policy and oversight over contracts and purchases.

Requiring the Secretary to establish and maintain a comprehensive centralized Department-wide acquisition program, and to develop a streamlined approach to purchasing goods and services.

Providing VA the authority to use personal services contracts to ensure patients at VA medical facilities are provided quality contract care without unnecessary expenses.

Authorizing the VA to have complete responsibility and auditing authority for the two Federal Supply Schedules delegated to the VA by the General Services Administration.

Providing a clear definition for small business concerns to be listed in the database of veteran-owned businesses maintained by the VA.

I am pleased to be joined by a number of members in introducing this much needed legislation, and urge my colleagues to support the bill.

COMMENDING THE SOLDIERS AND
CIVILIAN PERSONNEL STA-
TIONED AT FORT GORDON

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 206, a resolution commending the soldiers and civilian personnel stationed at Fort Gordon and their families for their service and dedication to the United States and recognizing the contributions of Fort Gordon to Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom and its role as a pivotal communications training installation.

Fort Gordon dates to 1940, when the United States Army recognized a need for a military installation near Augusta, Georgia that could aid in combat during the ensuing Second World War. The groundbreaking actually took place in 1941, and the base was originally named Camp Gordon after John B. Gordon, a general during the Civil War and former Governor of Georgia. During World War II, Camp Gordon was home to the 4th Infantry Division, 26th Infantry Division, and 10th Armored Division of the Army until they were deployed to Europe. However, in 1948, Camp Gordon became the home of the Signal Corps Training Center—for which it is most commonly known today.

Throughout the Korean war the need for signalmen grew, and the Signal Corps Training Center became the largest single source for Army communications specialists. Camp Gordon was also made a permanent installation in 1956 and was renamed Fort Gordon. Further, during the Vietnam war era and after, communications specialists became an absolutely necessary component of highly technological and modernized warfare, and Fort Gordon was recognized as an exemplary institution for these soldiers as the Signal Corps Training Center came to be known as the United States Army Signal Center at Fort Gordon.

Fort Gordon and the troops and families stationed there were instrumental in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and during the 1990s the installation was responsible for training most of the DoD personnel who operate and maintain satellites, as well as training signal troops of allied and former nations.

Currently, approximately 19,000 soldiers are stationed at Fort Gordon, and Augusta has been a welcome home to all of them. To this day, the base continues its tradition of success in the Signal Corps, as it trains soldiers for deployment into theater in Iraq and Afghanistan. On behalf of Georgia's 11th Congressional District, I am proud of the continued dedication to the safety and security of the United States of the men and women at Fort Gordon and thank them for their nearly 60 years of service to this Nation. Georgia has been blessed with an abundance of willing men and women who are committed to ensuring freedom and liberty for America, and I thank each of them for their service.

I believe that the brave men and women at Fort Gordon and every military installation who sacrifice for our present freedoms deserve our fullest support. Our Nation's service men and women represent the best our country has to offer, and they must be treated with the respect and honor they deserve. As we ask these courageous soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines—and their families—to do more and more, it's only right we continue doing all we can for them. Commending the accomplishments and service of our troops at Fort Gordon is just one small example of the gratitude that every American should express to our troops at home and abroad.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

IN MEMORY OF JODIE MAHONY

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Joseph "Jodie" Mahony II of El Dorado, Arkansas, who passed away on Saturday, December 5, 2009, at the age of 70. Having served 36 years in the Arkansas state legislature, Jodie was a legend in Arkansas government and politics and his presence will be deeply missed.

Jodie committed his life to making Arkansas a better place to get an education, to live and to work. He was first elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives in 1970 and served 24 years before winning a Senate seat in 1994. In 2002, after two 4-year terms, when newly adopted term limits kept him from seeking re-election as senator, he ran for the House again, where he was still eligible to serve two more 2-year terms.

Jodie retired officially from elected office in 2006, but his presence remained at the State Capitol where he served as a part-time aide to the House Speaker during the 2007 legislative session. Throughout his career, Jodie filed 1,429 bills, with much of his efforts focused on public and higher education, the developmentally disabled, child support enforcement and natural resources conservation.

In addition to Jodie's public service, he and his family have played an influential role in the state's legal history. The grandson and son of lawyers, Jodie followed in his family's footsteps to become a lawyer, and today, in its 113th year, the Mahony law firm is the oldest operating law firm in the State of Arkansas. Jodie also served in the U.S. Marine Corps in active duty and the reserves.

Our State is better for Jodie's service to it and its people. I never thought of Jodie as a politician, but rather as a statesman. He had the respect of every legislator for his knowledge, fairness and commitment to our great State. I had the privilege of serving with Jodie during my time in the Arkansas state legislature from 1991 through 2000 and he was a friend, a role model and someone I trusted for sincere advice and counsel.

My thoughts and prayers and those of every Arkansan are with Jodie's family during this difficult time, especially to his wife, Bettie Anne; his two sons, Joseph K. Mahony III and Michael Emon Mahony; and three grandchildren, Jordan, Alexandra and Joseph K. Mahony IV.

Jodie will be deeply missed, but never forgotten. Although he is no longer with us, Jodie's many contributions to improving our state will continue on forever, serving as a reminder of his hard work and many good deeds throughout an accomplished legislative career and life.

IN HONOR OF MRS. EDITH
ARMSTEAD GRAY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and the legacy of

Mrs. Edith Armstead Gray. Mrs. Gray passed away December 1 at the age of 99. Mrs. Gray was a lady of style, grace, and compassion. But, most of all, Mrs. Gray earned the highest honor that could be bestowed upon any of us: "Servant."

Mrs. Gray was born in Galveston, Texas, in 1910 to Henry and Millie Armstead. She enrolled at Tuskegee Institute, now University, as a student majoring in home economics. She accepted her first and only teaching job in Conecuh County, Alabama, and returned to summer school to earn her B.S. degree from Tuskegee in 1940.

During her extraordinary teaching career, she became a great role model for thousands of young men and women who entered her classroom. But, her commitment and dedication to humankind did not limit itself to the classroom.

Shirley Chisholm once said that "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." Mrs. Gray paid her rent and she paid it well. She gave dedicated service to many community organizations to include: the Conecuh County branch of the NAACP; the Evergreen Housing Authority board of directors; the Neoteric Club, now associated with Neoteric Clubs of Alabama; the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church; the County Retired Teachers Association; and a life member of the advisory board at Reid Technical College. Because of her dedicated service to Reid Technical College, the library and technology center now proudly bears her name.

Mrs. Gray was a trailblazer. She was a founding member of the Conecuh branch of the NAACP and the Neoteric Club. She worked tirelessly to make sure that citizens in her community exercised their power of the ballot.

Mrs. Gray married Philander A. Gray in 1936. From that union came three accomplished children: Phyllis Hallmon, my chief of staff, Frederick Gray, and Jerome Gray. Upon the death of her husband in 1953, as a single parent, she reared her three children and passed on to each of them a love for people and public service. All of them have had distinguished careers and are making their mark on the world because of their mother's strong influence. Frederick has served for many years as a United Methodist pastor. His charge has been to bring souls to Jesus Christ for His service. Jerome has served as the State Field Director for the Alabama Democratic Conference. Like his dear mother, he has devoted his life and work to the expansion of political and civic opportunities for African-Americans. He has been involved in many capacities at the local and state levels in the fight for civil rights and equal opportunities. He currently serves as a Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture for the State of Alabama. Phyllis has also had a distinguished career, serving as a public school teacher, government lawyer, legislative director to a United States Senator, and chief of staff to two Members of the United States House of Representatives. In the same vein as her mother, she has distinguished herself as a woman of hard work and compassion. The legacy of Mrs. Gray will live on through each of them and their progeny.

Her legacy of good will is something that we all should seek to replicate. Our country and our world are better because Edith Armstead Gray passed this way. She will be sorely missed. I know that after 99 years of dedi-

cated earthly service, she has now claimed her crown of righteousness.

I extend my deepest sympathies to the Gray family and thank them for sharing this special woman with the world for so many years.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR PAULA HAWKINS

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, it is with sadness that I report to the House of Representatives the passing of former United States Senator Paula Hawkins. Florida's former State Public Service Commissioner and U.S. Senator died Friday, December 4 in Orlando, Florida. With Paula Hawkins' passing, we have lost a remarkable public servant and trailblazer for women and all Americans in the state and national political landscape.

A resident of Winter Park, Florida, who began her public career in nearby Maitland, Florida, was born Paula Fickes in Salt Lake City, Utah, on January 24, 1927. She received her education from the public school systems in Salt Lake City and Richmond, Utah, as well as, Atlanta, Georgia, attending Utah State University from 1944–1947.

In 1972, she became the first woman in Florida elected statewide with her winning a seat on the Public Service Commission. With her election and work to reform Florida's State Utility Commission, she gained the name as the battling "Maitland Housewife." In 1980, she became the first woman elected to the United States Senate without being preceded in office by a husband or family member.

In the United States Senate, she authored the Missing Children's Act in 1982. During her 6-year term, she championed children's and women's issues and created a public dialogue on the subject of missing, exploited and abused children. "Senator Paula Hawkins was tireless, tenacious and an incredible champion for America's children," said Ernie Allen, President of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. "We will cherish her memory and miss her very much."

Senator Hawkins was also responsible for the passage of Radio Marti legislation and a number of measures assisting women in the workforce. She chaired the Investigation and Oversight Subcommittee of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee. In addition, the Senator served as Chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Children, Family, Youth and Drugs and was responsible for establishing the U.S. Senate Child Care Center.

Mrs. Hawkins was instrumental in building the Republican Party, both at the state and national level. She began her GOP work at the local level, served as National Republican Committeewoman from Florida and co-chaired the 1984 Republican Convention Platform Committee. Senator Hawkins was also state co-chair in Florida for several successful Republican Presidential campaigns.

Senator Hawkins received numerous awards and was honored by selection to Florida's Outstanding Women's Hall of Fame.

Prior to election to the U.S. Senate she served as a vice president of Air Florida 1979–1980; director, Rural Telephone Bank

board 1972–1978; member President's Commission on White House fellowships 1975; served on Federal Energy Administration Consumer Affairs/Special Impact Advisory Committee 1974–1976; and served for 7 years as a representative for the United States on the Organization of American States Inter-American Drug Abuse Commission.

Senator Hawkins is survived by her husband Gene Hawkins of Winter Park, Florida and three children, Genean McKinnon of Winter Park and Montreal, Kevin Hawkins of Denver, Colorado and Kelly McCoy of Orlando, Florida, as well as, 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

SPEECH ON AFGHANISTAN

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, on Friday December 4, 2009, I had an opportunity to address the American Security Project Conference regarding the situation in Afghanistan. This speech followed a hearing of the House Armed Services Committee, which I chair, the day before. My address is as follows:

[Speech given at the American Security Project Conference, Dec. 4, 2009]

BEYOND THE SURGE: ASSESSING THE PRESIDENT'S AFGHANISTAN STRATEGY

(By Ike Skelton)

First, let me take a moment to thank Admiral Gunn for that introduction. You're too kind. I'd like to extend that thanks to Senator Hart and the American Security Project as a whole. You're doing great work, and I appreciate your efforts. I'd also like to say happy birthday to Evelyn Farkas, here at ASP. I would also like to thank our brave men and women in uniform. We have asked much of them in the past decade, and they have not failed to deliver.

Two months ago, I wrote a letter to the President saying, essentially, that he should listen to his commanders in the field. Being a member of Congress, it took six pages to say that, but that was the basic message. I made that same point in private conversations with the President. And so it pleased me the other night when the President agreed to provide General McChrystal with additional forces needed to make this new strategy work.

But before assessing the overall strategy, I think we should take a moment to remind ourselves why we're in Afghanistan and the threat we face there.

Al Qaeda presents a serious threat to our nation. Osama bin Laden and his minions have attacked us or attempted to attack us many times over the years. The most remarkable attack involved the murder of 3000 civilians—men, women, and children—but it was hardly the only attack. And I do not believe that anyone has a good reason to believe that they have given up their attempts to attack us.

Following our invasion of Afghanistan in response to this attack, al Qaeda largely fled to the border regions of Pakistan. Their Taliban allies, meanwhile, continue to escalate their attacks in an attempt to overthrow the Afghan government and drive out the international coalition.

Others have differing opinions on this, but I do not believe that we can ultimately destroy al Qaeda if we cannot prevent them from recreating a safe haven in Afghanistan.

I also do not believe that we can be successful in rooting them out of Pakistan if we fail in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan and Pakistan have some inherent advantages for al Qaeda that other places may not. Having been in the region for over 20 years, they have married into local tribes and made contacts with other extremist organizations. These connections have allowed the senior leaders to hide successfully for many years.

Afghanistan is also of strategic value to al Qaeda. In losing Afghanistan, they lost not only the support of a government and the use of an entire country as a safe haven, but suffered a tremendous blow to their image. Reestablishing a safe haven in Afghanistan could rehabilitate this image among those who resent or oppose the United States, leading to increases in recruiting and funding.

Nor can we consider Afghanistan and Pakistan in isolation—the security situation in Afghanistan can have a negative impact on the stability of Pakistan. It is foolish to think that if the Taliban and al Qaeda were able to reestablish themselves in all or part of Afghanistan, they would not lend support to those militants seeking to overthrow or destabilize the Pakistani state. Al Qaeda has already assisted the Pakistani Taliban in carrying out attacks on the Pakistani government, and I would expect this aid to increase if al Qaeda regained a base in Afghanistan. There was an attack at a mosque earlier today that killed dozens. With a secure base for al Qaeda, I would expect many more such attacks. And the only thing worse than al Qaeda loose in Afghanistan again is a destabilized, nuclear-armed Pakistan.

On Tuesday night, the President proposed what I think is a good way ahead as we address this threat. From the extensive media reporting on the process, we all know how thorough a review was conducted by the White House, lasting months and including somewhere around 10 cabinet secretary level meetings and extensive consultation with every expert they could find.

President Obama's strategy rightly focuses on seizing the initiative from the enemy, building Afghan capacity, and ultimately allowing the Afghan government and security forces to take the lead in fighting this war.

The President has appropriately called for additional troops from our allies—this is not just America's war, and we must not allow it to become that. Perhaps more importantly, the President has put the burden of reform squarely on the Afghan government, laying out clear expectations of performance and promising support for those ministries and local leaders that perform.

The President has also rightly acknowledged the importance of Pakistan. Pakistan remains a challenge, playing a key and often contradictory role in the region. Pakistan, by assisting in the pursuit of al Qaeda and Afghan Taliban leaders, could help bring the war in Afghanistan to an end. Conversely, if Pakistan were to return to old habits of supporting the Afghan Taliban, the war may be almost impossible to win. More concerning, the continued ascendancy of militant movements in the region could destabilize Pakistan, a country with nuclear weapons. This could be disastrous for all of us.

I think this is a good strategy. Perhaps most importantly, it is a strategy that I believe has a good chance of success. In the past, I have often said that we lacked a strategy for the first 7 years of the war in Afghanistan. Some of my colleagues have suggested that this assertion may not be entirely fair. But, the result of whatever the

prior Administration thought it was doing, ultimately resembled conducting combat operations without any thought of what we were trying to accomplish. So having a strategy, much less a good one, is a great start.

President Obama also, I am pleased to say, took my advice. He listened to his military leaders, including Generals McChrystal and Petraeus, Admiral Mullen, and Secretary Gates. Ultimately, the President endorsed adding 30,000 troops to carry out his strategy. This is on top of the 21,000 he dispatched to Afghanistan earlier this year. In January 2009, there were about 33,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan. In about 7 months, there will be three times that. That is, I believe, a clear sign of the President's resolve and willingness to do what it takes to be successful in Afghanistan.

Yesterday, the House Armed Services Committee, which I have to honor to chair, hosted Secretary Gates, Admiral Mullen, and Deputy Secretary of State Lew. Next Tuesday, we will hear from General McChrystal and Ambassador Eikenberry. Members, properly, have a lot of questions about the strategy, and we want to make sure that the details have been thought through. I'll list a few of the areas we have explored or will next week.

Many members are concerned about the July 2011 date to begin redeployment. So far, most have focused on that date as being set, rather than completely conditions based, but to me it looks like this is a case where there isn't much to complain about. Secretary Gates and Admiral Mullen were pretty clear that not only were they comfortable with the date, but that they thought it served the useful purpose of motivating the Afghans.

To me, what happens after that date is at least as important as the date itself. Secretary Gates testified that the process of transition that begins on that date would itself be slow and conditions-based, so that while the start of the process was fixed in time, the end could be adjusted as required. And I think that flexibility and realistic approach to a difficult process is exactly right.

One other concern, and one that in my mind might be more realistic, is the unintended consequences of setting out such a message. The message of a gradual, conditions-based transition may not be understood the same way by all audiences. The Pakistanis may well believe that it signals that the United States is once again leaving the region, and that might undermine our hopes of gaining their cooperation. Various ethnic groups in Afghanistan, fearing a civil war after we begin to depart, could start stockpiling weaponry or hedge their bets in other unhelpful ways. I think we have to keep our eyes open for this possibility and be creative in reassuring the Afghans and the Pakistanis that we are not abandoning them.

Corruption in the Afghan government, and the legitimacy or illegitimacy of that government, is also frequently a subject of questioning. It's a concern I share, and one that President Karzai's recent election reinforced. On the positive side, there are ministers and ministries in Afghanistan that have functioned well—Minister Wardak at the Defense Ministry and Minister Atmar at the Interior Ministry are honest effective ministers. The Health Ministry, Education Ministry, and the National Solidarity Program, run by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, all seem to be functioning well.

But there are also legitimate concerns. High level corruption among ministers and governors; shakedowns by police, judges, and other authorities; and perceptions that warlords are untouchable by the law feed the belief among the Afghan people that their gov-

ernment does not serve them. And President Karzai has not always been helpful—his family is perceived to be part of the problem, and his unwillingness to remove the immunity from some ministers so the Afghan Attorney General can indict them is not helpful.

There are ways we can help push for reform—for example, not working with those leaders who prove to be corrupt so that their ability to deliver for their followers or to make money is hampered—but we have to take this seriously. President Karzai, in his inauguration speech also promised to crack down on corruption and to hold a *loya jirga* of national reconciliation. I would like to hear from General McChrystal and Ambassador Eikenberry how we can hold him to these promises and push to have the *jirga* also help develop a compact of what the Afghan people have a right to expect from their government.

Members will also likely ask about the promised assessment of efforts in December 2010. I think that is a good time to begin such an assessment—six months after all the promised troops arrive in country—but members will likely have many questions about it. What will we assess? What is an acceptable level of progress? What are the options if progress is insufficient? These are all obvious questions. The one thing I would say is that I think it will behoove all of us to offer the Administration some breathing space before we make judgments about the success of the plan. Asking questions is fair, drawing conclusions about the success or failure of the strategy before it is really implemented probably isn't.

So, in the first few days after the announcement of the new strategy, those are some of my thoughts. I think the President is to be commended for the strategy and the resolve he is showing. I believe he is fully aware of the threat posed by al Qaeda and the potential posed by a sanctuary for terror in Afghanistan and a possibly destabilized Pakistan. These are serious threats we are facing, and the President is clearly prepared to take realistic, effective and fully resourced steps to address them.

So I conclude as I started, by thanking all of you for what you do, and by asking you to think of the brave men and women in uniform, and the civilians who will assist them, who will have to do the hard, dangerous work to make this strategy a success. We owe them a great deal, and we should never forget it.

Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO BART NELSON,
FOUNDER AND CEO OF NELSON
IRRIGATION CORP

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Nelson Irrigation and its extraordinary founder, Bart Nelson. Recently recognized by the Seattle Business magazine as one of Washington's top innovators and entrepreneurs, Nelson has been one of the United States' leading pioneers in the field of agricultural irrigation.

Headquartered in Walla Walla, WA, Nelson Irrigation, Nelson, plans, designs, develops, manufactures, and sells proprietary products for the irrigation equipment market. His products are sold to customers throughout the United States and the world. What makes this

company and its founder so special is that Nelson is not just focused on running an economically successful company, but doing so in a responsible way. The company specifically focuses on using natural resources responsibly, thereby saving both water and energy with its innovative products.

If one drives through my home district of eastern Washington, you can't help but spot some of Nelson's products at work. These innovative irrigation systems are helping to produce food for an expanding global population. In fact, Nelson recognizes the importance of their innovative products not just helping feed a growing population, but improving the quality of life for countless people throughout this country and the world.

Madam Speaker, with such innovative, dedicated, and sincere entrepreneurs as Bart Nelson helping to expand the irrigation products to new levels, I am confident that both eastern Washington and the United States can look forward to a future of world-class innovation and prosperity in the agricultural industry.

HONORING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RINGLING BROTHERS CIRCUS

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 125th anniversary of the Ringling Brothers Circus and to recognize the role of both the Circus World Museum and the Wisconsin Historical Society in the preservation of circus industry history. The Ringling Brothers Circus has become a celebrated national entertainment enterprise based in Baraboo, Wisconsin, while the Circus World Museum and Wisconsin Historical Society have developed an impressive collection of circus artifacts and knowledge.

The Ringling Brothers Circus rose to prominence under the leadership of several Baraboo area brothers, eventually becoming one of the most successful entertainment enterprises in American history. This circus has contributed to the economic and cultural vitality of Wisconsin since the Ringling brothers gave their first performance on May 19, 1884. Though Chas, Al, John, Alf, and Otto Ringling launched their small business with less than \$100 in assets, these five Baraboo natives went on to purchase the world famous Barnum and Bailey Circus. The organization continued to grow, exhibiting the unique talents and showmanship of this Sauk County family for hundreds of audiences across the country. Combining their passion for performance with an entrepreneurial spirit, the Ringling brothers created one of the longest-running entertainment enterprises in the world. The work of the Ringling brothers and the success of their circus provide impressive examples for ambitious performers and business people everywhere. I am proud of the group's contributions to both the state of Wisconsin and to audiences throughout America.

Over the past half century, the Wisconsin Historical Society and the Circus World Museum have become stewards of circus industry memorabilia and information. Baraboo is home to one of the largest collections of his-

torical circus artifacts in the world, and the Circus World Museum's Robert L. Parkinson Library and Research Center has become the world's foremost research facility for circus history. With objects dating back to 1793, these organizations are leaders, both on a local and national level, in the preservation of circus materials. By maintaining the documents, objects, and knowledge base associated with the circus, the Wisconsin Historical Society and the Circus World Museum have conserved a valuable aspect of our national heritage. The Historical Society's work on behalf of the Ringling Brothers Circus, as well as the circus industry as a whole, serves as an ideal example of its dedication to the local communities and to the enrichment of society through historical preservation.

The citizens of Baraboo can be proud of their city, and its role as the first home to the "Greatest Show on Earth." Since its inception, the Ringling Brothers Circus has cultivated a reputation for excellence in entertainment, while the Circus World Museum has set the standard for circus history preservation. I therefore commend Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus for its sustained contributions to the national circus industry, as well as the Wisconsin Historical Society and the Circus World Museum, for their dedication to circus history and research.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AUTHORITIES AND CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, as a new Member of Congress, I have spent this year actively seeking opportunities to offer constructive legislative proposals on issues important to my constituents and to the Nation. I have been honored to sponsor measures dealing with improving highway safety and fostering research and development for alternative energy.

In addition to my other legislation focused on energy and transportation safety, I also directed my staff to contact the National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Subcommittee because the protection and preservation of our parks, heritage areas, forests and public lands are of vital interest to me and the people I represent.

The committee informed me that the National Park Service needed legislation to deal with a number of technical concerns facing the agency, and I was honored to act as the sponsor.

H.R. 3804 includes 10-year reauthorizations for two important advisory boards, the National Park System Advisory Board and the National Park Service Concession Management Advisory Board.

The National Park System Advisory Board was first authorized in 1935 and advises the NPS Director and the Secretary of the Interior on matters relating to the agency, the National Park System, and programs administered by the NPS, including the designation of national historic landmarks and proposed national historic trails. A full, 10-year reauthorization of

the Board is critical to maintaining the excellent management standards set by the National Park Service.

The Concession Management Advisory Board was established by the National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998. The seven-member panel advises the Secretary of the Interior and the National Park Service on matters relating to the effective management of concessions in units of the National Park System. Reauthorization of this Board is important to ensure that the lodging, transportation, dining and other services provided to park visitors are of the very highest quality.

H.R. 3804 also raises the ceiling for the popular Volunteers in Parks program from \$3.5 million to \$10 million. Volunteers, of course, are not paid, but many receive reimbursement for travel costs or other small expenses. Our national parks simply could not function without these volunteers, and the VIP program is really the least we can do to repay their enormous contributions.

At the request of the National Park Service, H.R. 3804 changes the designation of the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site in Atlanta to the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park, to better reflect the size and complexity of the unit.

The bill also makes several minor boundary adjustments that will allow the National Park Service to cooperate with other sites near the U.S.S. Arizona Memorial to make ticketing easier for visitors and makes technical corrections for six provisions in the omnibus parks bill from earlier this year.

Finally, H.R. 3804 will strengthen law enforcement in our national parks by increasing and standardizing penalties for violations of park laws.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill so that our Park Service can move to a more stable future.

THE HEALTH CARE REALITY CHECK ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Health Care Reality Check Act of 2009.

It has become clear that some of my colleagues in Congress lack proper perspective on the urgency of health reform because, ironically, as Members of Congress we enjoy some of the best health security in the world through our government-administered health care:

All Members of Congress are eligible—and most participate in—the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program, which provides all Federal employees with a Government-negotiated insurance exchange that is subsidized by their employer: the Federal Government;

Almost 150 Members of Congress qualify for Medicare, a single-payer Government insurance plan;

The 121 Senators and Representatives who served in our Armed Forces are eligible for the "socialized" health care we provide for all veterans; and

Members who aren't veterans can avail themselves to a similar "socialized" program—

the Attending Physician in the U.S. Capitol, for an annual fee of around \$500.

These Government-run health programs have successfully provided countless Senators and Representatives with life-saving medical treatments, but as we all know, most Americans don't have this kind of protection.

Members of Congress should not have access to taxpayer-funded healthcare when they are actively denying these very people quality care of their own.

Congress needs a reality check.

In 2007, before the economy collapsed, 42 percent of all adult Americans under 65 were either uninsured or underinsured. Our dire unemployment rates and escalating health care costs have only made this situation worse. Today half of all American families delay seeking medical treatment because they have such a tenuous health insurance situation. Many of my colleagues do not fully appreciate the plight of 50 percent of our population, but we can help them understand.

Until health reform is enacted, Members of Congress should get to experience the tender mercies of our fragmented, complex, and exploitative health care system. My Health Care Reality Check Act terminates all government-administered health benefits for Members of Congress until comprehensive health reform is signed into law: no more Federal Employee Health Benefits Program, no Medicare, no VA, no attending physician in the Capitol.

Instead, Senators and Representatives may self-insure or they can rely on a spouse's company having employer-provided insurance, thus tying them—like millions of Americans—to the employment of a family member. Some will need to buy health insurance on the private market, exposing them to legal discrimination based on age and gender.

By personally dealing with rescissions, pre-existing condition exclusions, the fine-print of insurance contracts and the gaps in coverage from weak consumer protections maybe my colleagues can better grasp the urgency of our health care crisis.

If our own health security were linked to the success of health reform for all Americans, we will have a bill enacted within weeks, guaranteed.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION ADDRESSING WORLD WAR II AND THE DEPORTATION OF JEWS AND OTHERS TO CONCENTRATION CAMPS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speakers, I am pleased to join my colleagues Ranking Member ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN and Congressman JERRY NADLER in introducing bipartisan legislation that addresses a horrific period in world history: World War II and the deportation of millions of Jews and others to concentration camps. This bill would affect French railroad companies, which took more than 75,000 Jews from France to concentration camps during World War II, less than 3 percent of whom survived. Under current law, these foreign entities are immune from legal action. Specifically, the bill provides plaintiffs the right to

seek damages against the French National Railway (Societe Nationale des Chemines Fers Francais—SNCF) in Federal Court for its transportation of French and other Jews to Auschwitz as well as its supply of personnel to facilitate the transportation and the assessed charges per person. The French Government claims immunity from legal action due to the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, yet the FSIA was passed 30 years after the action causing the damages for which the plaintiffs seek. The bill allows the plaintiffs to sue regardless of the strictures of the FSIA.

Nothing will ever make up for the unthinkable atrocities undertaken by Nazi Germany and its sympathizers during World War II, but every bit of justice is important. No perpetrator or accomplice of the Holocaust should ever go unpunished. This bill allows some measure of closure for those who have suffered for far too long.

FIRST GLOBAL MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON ROAD SAFETY

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, as a founding co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Global Road Safety, I rise today to praise the highly encouraging efforts and outcomes of the First Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety, which took place in Moscow, Russia, on November 19 and 20, 2009.

This important conference was the result of a five-year effort by a global community of stakeholders from multilateral and bilateral institutions, from governmental and nongovernmental organizations, and from academia and civil society. These groups are dedicated to raising international awareness and to mobilizing a global response to advancing road safety.

Hosted by President Dmitry Medvedev and the Russian Federation, this conference brought together transportation ministers, health ministers, non-governmental organizations, and experts from across the globe and reflected a growing understanding among nations to seek opportunities to cooperate on tackling one of the world's most severe problems today—the epidemic of road crash deaths and injuries.

The statistics for this epidemic are staggering: 1.3 million people are killed annually on the world's roads and 50 million more are injured. The number of deaths each year is the equivalent of 10 jumbo jets crashing every day, and the toll is continuing to increase dramatically. At the current rate of growth, road crashes will be the fifth leading cause of death overall by the year 2030, and the first leading cause of death for children aged five and older by 2020, rivaling the top and often more well-known global health epidemics.

Road crashes do not discriminate by age, class, gender, race, or nationality. Nor do they respect the bounds of geography. In the United States alone the death toll is an estimated 44,000 people annually, and road crashes have become the leading cause of death among Hispanics under 34 years of age. Meanwhile, in some African countries, up to half of all hospital surgical beds are occu-

pied by road crash victims, while in others the fatalities rank second only to HIV/AIDS.

Along with the unfathomable human cost of road crashes, there are also grave economic costs to individuals, families, and communities. It is estimated that road crashes cost \$518 billion globally each year. In developing countries, road crashes have a dramatic impact on their fragile economies, costing an estimated \$100 billion, and often exceeding the total amount received by these countries in development assistance. Furthermore, road crashes place a preventable strain on first responder services, health care services, and health insurance services, as many victims require extensive, and expensive, critical care, as well as follow-up care and rehabilitation. In countries where a primary bread-winner is killed or injured, or must care for the injured, this can destroy livelihoods and devastate communities.

The First Ministerial Conference on Road Safety in Moscow addressed each of these issues, as well as many other key components of the road safety epidemic, in an intensive two days of plenary sessions and panel discussions during which high level delegates from various nations and organizations shared experiences, ideas, and best practices.

I would like to commend the U.S. delegation, which included representation from the Department of State, the Department of Transportation, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other partner state and federal agencies, for its robust participation and high level representation throughout the Conference. As the first global forum for road safety, this conference was truly an historic event. I am pleased that the U.S. delegation took a strong leadership role in addressing U.S. road safety goals and objectives, as well as in working constructively with the Conference to establish new benchmarks for best practices and road traffic injury prevention, as announced in the Moscow Declaration.

The Moscow Declaration reinforces governmental leadership and guidance on road safety, sets regional casualty reduction targets, and offers a new framework for international cooperation on global road safety. It declares the decade 2011–2020 as the “Decade of Action for Road Safety” with the goal of stabilizing and reducing the forecast level of global road deaths. Finally, the Declaration encourages the U.N. General Assembly to assent to the goals and policies it proposes.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work of all those who helped make the First Ministerial Conference on Global Road Safety a success. I applaud the Russian Federation for taking the initiative of hosting this critical conference in Moscow. I would also like to congratulate the U.S. delegation and other participants from around the world for having demonstrated a promising commitment to the important goal of reducing road deaths on a global scale.

I and the rest of the Congressional Caucus on Global Road Safety look forward to maintaining a fruitful dialogue with the Russian Federation, other governments, the international NGO community and other organizations, with the aim of finding further ways to improve road safety, and I am hopeful that the Congress as a whole will continue to do so as well. Finally, I encourage the Obama Administration and the American delegation to continue their strong leadership in ensuring that

the casualty reduction targets and the road safety initiatives detailed in the Moscow Declaration are accomplished, both at home and abroad.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately earlier today I was unable to cast my votes on H.R. 3288, H. Con. Res. 199, H. Con. Res. 206, and H. Res. 940 and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Last night, as you are aware, there were no votes in the House of Representatives due to the White House Christmas Party. I took this opportunity to meet with some of my young constituents at the Farmhouse Fraternity on the campus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to discuss agricultural issues and the implementation of the Farm Bill. Early this morning I boarded an airplane in Champaign, Illinois, and unfortunately due to weather, my plane was drastically delayed, I was unable to arrive in Washington, DC to cast my votes.

Had I been present on rollcall #931 on the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 3288, Making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, HUD, and related agencies for FY 2010, I would have voted "aye". This vote would have blocked any attempt by the Majority from using H.R. 3288 as the vehicle for an Omnibus Appropriations bill and require that the language for this bill be posted online for 72 hours prior to any vote. Madam Speaker, omnibus appropriations bills that are hundreds of pages long and have not been fully vetted is no way to fund our government and I urge you to refrain from using this bill for those purposes.

Had I been present on rollcall #932 on suspending the rules and passing H. Con. Res. 199, Recognizing the 10th Anniversary of the activation of Echo Company of the 100th Battalion of the 442d Infantry, and the sacrifice of the soldiers and families in support of the United States, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present on rollcall #933 on suspending the rules and passing H. Con. Res. 206, Commending the soldiers and civilian personnel stationed at Fort Gordon and their families for their service and dedication to the United States and recognizing the contributions of Fort Gordon to Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom and its role as a pivotal communications training installation, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present on rollcall #934 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 940, Recognizing and honoring the National Guard on the occasion of its 373rd anniversary, I would have voted "aye."

CONGRESS IS TAKING THE WRONG APPROACH ON ESTATE TAX REFORM

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, farmers, ranchers, and other small businesses are the backbone of the Kansas economy. The ability to pass a business from one generation to the next is critical to a business's ongoing success. Rural America has enough trouble retaining a youthful workforce. The estate or "death" tax does not aid our efforts in promoting long term growth and curbing depopulation.

A major obstacle to the continuity of a business is the estate tax. I have long sought a permanent repeal of the estate tax. This tax comprises less than one percent of U.S. revenues, but poses a substantial impediment to the growth of family farms and small businesses. H.R. 4154, Permanent Estate Tax Relief for Families, Farmers, and Small Businesses Act of 2009, does not provide the necessary reforms. While the certainty provided by H.R. 4154 would be welcome, passage of this legislation reduced the chances to next to none that any significant changes will occur to estate taxes in the future. I have sponsored an alternative that, for a while, was expected to be brought to the House floor. While it does not do all that I would like; it is reasonable and continues to have the chance for broad bipartisan support.

While I will continue to look for ways to achieve a full repeal, I believe the next best alternative, given today's political and economic climate, is H.R. 3905, the Estate Tax Relief Act of 2009. H.R. 3905 will exempt, from the estate tax, estates worth \$3.5 million in 2009, increase the exemption to \$5 million by the year 2019, and index the exemption to inflation to allow it to automatically increase in the years following 2019. Enacting exemptions at these levels should prevent a majority of Kansas' small businesses from being affected by the tax. H.R. 3905 will also reduce the maximum tax rate, for estates in excess of the exemption, to 35 percent by the year 2019.

While I am encouraged to see the House's willingness to address this issue, I feel Congress has missed an opportunity. I could not support H.R. 4154 because I believe it did not sufficiently address the damaging consequences of the estate tax while limiting the chances that Congress will ultimately do so. It is apparent that the House is currently unwilling to consider a full repeal. Until Congress is ready for that discussion, I will continue to work for initiatives that alleviate financial pressure from our farmers, ranchers, and small business owners.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,086,172,114,368.23.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

That means the national debt has increased by \$1,447,746,368,074.43 so far this year.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the forecast deficit for this year is \$1.6 trillion. That means that so far this year, we borrowed and spent an average \$4.4 billion a day more than we have collected, passing that debt and its interest payments to our children and all future Americans.

SATELLITE HOME VIEWER REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK KRATOVIL, JR.

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Mr. KRATOVIL. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3570, the Satellite Home Viewer Update and Reauthorization Act of 2009. This legislation reauthorizes the satellite compulsory license for carriage of distant network satellite affiliate TV station signals. If this bill does not become law before the end of the year, the distant network carriage license will expire and satellite subscribers would be left in the dark.

While I support the underlying legislation, I would like to draw attention to a provision that I believe could undermine our efforts to ensure rural residents have access to local programming. By redefining an "unserved household" to include those served by multicast networks, this legislation allows satellite broadcasters to continue to import distant, out-of-market signals into short markets when they are no longer necessary. I request that a letter signed by 18 bipartisan Members of the House of Representatives expressing concern over this definition of "unserved household," be inserted as an extraneous material.

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 2, 2009.

Hon. JOHN CONYERS, JR.,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CONYERS AND RANKING MEMBER SMITH: We write today to express our concerns regarding the manner in which H.R. 3570, the Satellite Home Viewer Update and Reauthorization Act of 2009, would diminish the availability of local programming available to satellite television subscribers.

Digital multicasting enables broadcasters to provide TV viewers with expanded options for free, local TV programming beyond the primary network affiliate channel. In pursuit of this promise, many broadcasters have already begun multicasting dedicated sports, ethnic, minority, weather, news, and hyper-local channels.

In various markets, including "short markets," i.e., television markets lacking a full complement of network affiliates, some stations have begun multicasting a local network affiliate other than the network affiliate carried on their primary channel. For example, television viewers in the Beaumont, TX market, which lacked a local NBC station, can now watch local NBC affiliate K-JAC as a multicast channel provided by a station that broadcasts the ABC affiliate

KBMT on its primary channel. It is important to note that this multicast channel, like numerous similar network affiliates that are broadcast on multicast channels across the country, is a full-fledged network station providing viewers with a full slate of a network's programming to the same geographic area as the station's other digital channel that broadcasts ABC programming. There is no rational public policy reason to treat the two network channels differently under copyright law.

Unfortunately, H.R. 3570, the Satellite Home Viewer Update and Reauthorization Act of 2009, enables DBS companies to impede and undermine multicast network affiliates. By re-defining a household capable of receiving a local network signal through the air as "unserved" if the signal is delivered via digital multicast technology, Sections 3(h)(1) and 3(h)(6) of H.R. 3570 together allow DBS companies to import distant network affiliates that duplicate the programming of the local, multicast network affiliate. This provision will not only undermine existing multicast stations, but it will also give local stations far less incentive to multicast an additional local network affiliate in the future if large numbers of potential viewers are already receiving an affiliate of that network through a DBS provider. Thus, these provisions may deprive viewers of locally-oriented programming by undermining existing multicast arrangements and removing the incentive for local stations to continue to offer or roll out new multicast network affiliated channels.

While H.R. 3570 only provides satellite companies this ability for 3 years following enactment, after the recent economic downturn, the next three years will be critical to the development of new, innovative, free, over-the-air digital network broadcast services, including networks that contain programming developed for ethnic minorities. Sections 3(h)(1) and 3(h)(6) of H.R. 3570 should be changed to ensure that DBS companies cannot import a distant network signal that duplicates a local network affiliated multicast station.

Additionally, as twelve members of the House Judiciary Committee stated in the additional views that were filed in the report language that accompanied H.R. 3570, "the preference in section three of the bill may result in discouraging free over-the-air local broadcasters from affiliating with more than one network and developing a market-based solution to the 'missing network affiliate' problem. This would limit the number of free network programming options available to consumers and, in effect, require consumers to subscribe to pay television to receive network they might otherwise have been able to view for free."

We appreciate your attention to this critically important issue. As you continue to work on the reauthorization of the Satellite Home Viewer Extension and Reauthorization Act during a House-Senate conference committee, we encourage you to support the approach to protecting multicast channels that was adopted by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Sincerely,

Frank Kratochvil; Roy Blunt; Tom Cole; Alan Mollohan; Rodney Alexander; Michael McMahon; Brett Guthrie; Bob Filner; Thomas Rooney; Nick J. Rahall; Christopher Lee; Gregory Meeks; Blaine Luetkemeyer; Raúl Grijalva; Shelley Capito; Sam Farr.

IN HONOR OF DECATUR TRADES & LABOR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the Decatur Trades and Labor Assembly on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. For over 5 decades, this Council of affiliated unions has improved the lives of working families in Decatur, Illinois and the regions that surround it.

From day one, Decatur Trades and Labor made a positive impact on local residents. Its Council fought hard to organize the unorganized, giving more workers the opportunity to bargain collectively and access the American Dream. For those already under union contract, the Council was a fierce advocate for better wages, benefits, and working conditions. Each victory it achieved helped all workers, union or nonunion, affiliated or non-affiliated. Decatur Trades and Labor recognized early on that a rising tide lifts all boats.

The great work of Decatur Trades and Labor went far beyond the union bargaining table. It worked with groups like the NAACP to achieve racial justice. It promoted blood drives for the American Red Cross and food drives for the hungry. It registered people to vote. And it encouraged members to give what they could to local charities.

Fifty years later, Decatur Trades and Labor remains a staple in the community. Everywhere you go, there are living testaments to the Council's great work. But it is a landmark downtown—the monument honoring fallen and injured workers—that sticks out most in my mind. Nearly every April, I travel to that monument for Workers Memorial Day. It is a towering reminder of our moral obligation to ensure workers return home safely to their families each and every night. We have Decatur Trades and Labor to thank for making it such a unique focal point of the city's downtown.

On this golden anniversary, I thank Decatur Trades and Labor for making the city it calls home a better place to live. I look forward to seeing what more it can accomplish in the next 50 years.

HONORING FREEMAN HRABOWSKI

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Freeman Hrabowski, President of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, who has recently been honored as one of Time magazine's 10 Best College Presidents.

President Hrabowski's deep commitment to fostering talented students, especially in science and math, has helped increase UMBC's number of African-American science and engineering majors sevenfold. Today, UMBC is one of America's biggest producers of African-American science and engineering Ph.D.s. As a fellow college president put it, President Hrabowski "has taught all of higher education that minority and low-income students . . . can meet the highest standards and excel."

Those high standards are, importantly, a matter of national competitiveness—but they are also a measure of this nation's promise of equality. As a child in Alabama, Freeman Hrabowski remembers Martin Luther King, Jr. telling civil rights marchers: "What you do this day will have an impact on generations as yet unborn." Today, at places like UMBC, that promise is coming true in the lives of the young men and women who are making the most of what those marchers won for them.

I join the members of the Maryland House delegation in thanking President Hrabowski for his commitment to his students and his extraordinary contribution to higher education. We congratulate him for this much-deserved recognition of his achievements.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE NATIONAL GUARD ON ITS 373RD ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 940 recognizing and honoring the National Guard on the occasion of its 373rd anniversary.

The security and freedom we enjoy in the United States of America is due in great part to the sacrifices made by the oldest component of the Armed Forces, the National Guard. From the Revolutionary War to the latest military operations in the Middle East, the Citizen-Soldiers of the National Guard have competently responded to the call of duty. In addition to serving overseas, these men and women make up the forces in the state divisions, such as the Texas National Guard, and have been key in serving the local community during natural disasters and civil emergencies.

As we reflect on the 68th anniversary of Pearl Harbor this week, it reminds us of the ultimate sacrifice members of the National Guard have bravely made, and will continue to make, for our country. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 940 to recognize and honor the National Guard on the occasion of its 373rd anniversary.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN ARBORETUM

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th anniversary of the University of Wisconsin Arboretum, and to recognize the efforts of the community organization Friends of the Arboretum. Since June 17, 1934, Madison area citizens have worked with University of Wisconsin officials to develop and maintain an invaluable collection of restored ecosystems. Though thousands of committed people have contributed to the Arboretum in countless ways, one group in particular offers an ideal example of dedication to

the Arboretum's mission. The nonprofit organization Friends of the Arboretum has helped preserve this valuable ecological resource both by fundraising for the Arboretum and through volunteer work. Those efforts, and the work of many others, have made possible invaluable scientific research and unique community opportunities.

Of course, Madison's Arboretum may not have been possible without the initial commitment of 200 hardworking individuals from the Civilian Conservation Corps. During the Great Depression, the efforts of these young government workers produced a natural sanctuary free from encroaching development and biological contamination. Just a few years after its dedication, the Madison Arboretum became the site of several important ecological experiments on conservation and restoration. One historic study conducted on the Arboretum's Curtis Prairie helped establish the use of fire as an effective prairie restoration technique, a method now widely recognized. Those 60 acres of Curtis Prairie today comprise the oldest restored prairie land in the United States.

As University of Wisconsin scientists continue to develop and enhance methods of ecological restoration, the Arboretum remains an important resource in the research process. The Arboretum now contains several preserved forests, prairies, and other lands, spread over hundreds of acres, which make possible influential ecological studies. Since the Civilian Conservation Corps first began reintroducing native flora to the various ecosystems of the Arboretum, it has grown to house over 300 different species of plants. Though urbanization and the invasion of new plant types have provided new, modern challenges for this space, the commitment of university workers and community volunteers, such as those from Friends of the Arboretum, have kept the Arboretum strong. In addition to scientific research, Arboretum workers and volunteers facilitate a variety of community events, and offer unique educational opportunities in the field of ecology.

Today, Madison's University of Wisconsin Arboretum contains the single most comprehensive assortment of restored ecosystems and a highly dedicated group of supporters. I therefore honor the 75th anniversary of the University of Wisconsin Arboretum, and commend both Friends of the Arboretum and all other Arboretum volunteers. The sustained commitment of numerous community members has maintained and enhanced a truly priceless natural resource.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHEROKEE
COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL WINNING
THE ALABAMA 4A STATE FOOT-
BALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to the Cherokee County High School football team in Centre, Alabama, which recently won the 2009 Alabama 4A State Football Championship.

On December 3, the Cherokee County Warriors defeated Jackson High School by a score

of 31–24 at Bryant-Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The Warriors finished the season with a record of 15–0, making them the only undefeated team in the state.

The Warriors are coached by Tripp Curry, and the school's principal is Doug Davis. I'd like to congratulate the football team, coaches and high school students and staff on this outstanding achievement. All of us across Cherokee County and East Alabama are deeply proud of these talented young Alabamians.

HONORING COLONEL JONATHAN
FLAUGHER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague JIM COSTA, to commend and congratulate COL Jonathan Flaughner upon being recognized as a "Citizen Soldier" by Fresno City College. Colonel Flaughner was recognized on Friday, November 6, 2009 at the annual Veterans Peace Memorial event held at Fresno City College in Fresno, California.

COL Jonathan Flaughner assumed command of the 144th Fighter Wing, California Air National Guard in Fresno, California in October 2004. He is a "Command Pilot" with over 4,000 hours of Air Force jet and fighter time, and is currently an F–16 Instructor Pilot. He graduated from North Carolina State University in 1977, with a bachelor of arts degree in History, and entered the United States Air Force through the ROTC program.

Colonel Flaughner was on active duty until 1995, and he has been with the 144th in Fresno ever since. Prior to his assignment as the 144th Wing Commander, Colonel Flaughner served as the Active Duty Advisor, 194th Squadron Flight Commander and Operations Officer, 144th Logistics Group Commander, 144th Maintenance Group Commander and 144th Operations Group Commander. He graduated from the United States Air Force Air War College in-residence program at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama in 1998. Previous assignments include a staff tour with HQ USAF and flying assignments in the F–16 at Spangdahlem Air Base in Germany, the F–106 at Griffiss Air Force Base in New York. After pilot training at Williams Air Force Base in Arizona he was assigned to the T–33 at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida. His first Air Force assignment was with the 726th Tactical Control Squadron base at Homestead Air Force Base in Florida.

Madam Speaker, Mr. COSTA and I rise today to commend and congratulate COL Jonathan Flaughner upon being recognized as a "Citizen Soldier." I invite my colleagues to join us in wishing Colonel Flaughner many years of continued success.

IN APPRECIATION OF MILLBRAE
MAYOR ROBERT GOTTSCHALK

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, every community should be so fortunate as to have a dy-

namic and committed public servant like Millbrae Mayor Robert Gottschalk.

Mayor Gottschalk is stepping down after eight years on the City Council, including two stints as Mayor. Bob's tenure on the council has been defined by his steady advocacy for the people of Millbrae, giving special emphasis to youth and senior programs, improving downtown and mitigating the impact of BART on Millbrae residents.

Mayor Gottschalk graduated from San Jose State University and went on to receive an M.B.A. in Finance from the University of California at Berkeley and a J.D. from UC Hastings College of the Law. He served our nation with distinction, retiring as a Captain from the U.S. Navy Reserves and worked for 21 years in banking before becoming an attorney.

Mayor Gottschalk represents Millbrae on the Association of Bay Area Governments, Peninsula Congestion Relief Alliance and the Joint Powers Authority for County Emergency Medical Response. He has also served as a member of the Millbrae Community Preservation Commission and was citizen advisor to the San Mateo County Transportation Authority.

Madam Speaker, I have worked closely with Mayor Gottschalk and my impression of him can be summed up as "leadership with a velvet glove." Bob has always led with gentility and a sense of decorum and the simple fact is that Millbrae, California is a better place to live because of his work. I know of no better barometer for public service than that.

HONORING JERRY "ICEMAN" BUTLER
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS
70TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor a legendary singer and songwriter, Jerry "Iceman" Butler, on the occasion of his 70th birthday today. An award-winning performer, producer and composer, and one of the architects of Rhythm and Blues, Mr. Butler, has enjoyed a 51-year career that began at the young age of 18, when he and Curtis Mayfield formed a rhythm and blues group, The Impressions, in Chicago in 1958.

The same year, Butler wrote a song titled For Your Precious Love, which became "the first of the Soul Music recordings" and a "landmark recording," according to Rolling Stone Magazine. The single, on Vee-Jay Records, became the first for The Impressions to "go Gold."

Mr. Butler, named "The Iceman" in 1959 by Philadelphia radio personality Georgie Woods for Butler's "cool as ice" delivery and debonair, effortless style has had numerous million selling recordings ("Gold") during his career: For Your Precious Love (with The Impressions, Vee-Jay, 1958); He Will Break Your Heart (Vee-Jay, 1960); Moon River (Vee-Jay, 1961); Never Gonna Give You Up (Mercury, 1976); Hey Western Union Man (Vee-Jay, 1968); Brand New Me (Mercury, 1969); Only The Strong Survive (Mercury, 1969); and Ain't Understanding Mellow (Mercury, 1973).

Nominated for three Grammys for singing and composing, Butler is the recipient of numerous awards, including several from

ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers) for his songwriting and publishing work; two Billboard Magazine Awards as a writer and artist; two Humanitarian Awards and several BMI (Broadcast Music Inc.) Awards as a writer and publisher. Butler was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1991 as "... one of the architects of Rhythm & Blues;" and was the recipient of a Rhythm & Blues Foundation "Pioneer Award" in 1994.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Butler, married for 50 years to Annette and the father of adult twin sons, is now using his considerable talent to serve the public as a member of the Cook County Board of Commissioners. First elected in 1986, Mr. Butler is currently the longest serving member of the Board. In his official capacity, he has led efforts to improve the quality of health services in the second most populous county in the United States, serving as Chair of the Board's Health and Hospitals Committee. Butler also serves as Commissioner and past President of the Northeastern (Illinois) Planning Commission, responsible for the planning and consultation for the six counties of Northeastern Illinois.

Madam Speaker, it is my great privilege and honor to my friend and colleague, The Honorable Jerry "Iceman" Butler on the occasion of his 70th birthday and I am privileged to enter these words into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO MR. SALVATORE F.
(SAL) PERRY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Salvatore F. Perry on the occasion of his 70th birthday which was November 16, 2009 and to salute him for his many years of outstanding service as a businessman and civic mainstay in the Taylor Street area of Chicago, commonly known as Little Italy.

Madam, Speaker, Salvatore F. Perry was born on November 16, 1939 at Mother Cabrini Hospital in Chicago to Francis and Grace Perry, both of whom were born in Sicily Italy. Sal was educated at St. Phillip High School and graduated in 1957. When he was 9 years old, his father bought Perry's Bakery at 1052 West Taylor Street. Sal worked there all through high school. After graduation he worked at the South Water Market and later joined the Army and served 2 years at Fort Leonardwood, Missouri as a quartermaster. On November 12, 1962, Sal married Roseanne Raimondi Perry and they had two children, Cynthia and Salvatore.

In 1962, Sal opened Westside Foods at 1152 West Taylor Street and operated the store until 1990. In 1990, Sal opened Rosals Cucina and it continues to operate to this day. During this time Sal has won the Humanitarian Award from Holy Family Church and contributed to many charities in the form of food donations and volunteer work to improve the community in which he has lived and worked.

On several thanksgivings, working with Congressman DANNY K. DAVIS, he has donated dinners to seniors and the children at The

Boys and Girls Club on Taylor and Racine. He helped to promote the rehabilitation of Holy Family Church by soliciting donations and other forms of marketing.

Madam Speaker, Sal retired in 2008, yet he continues to donate food and time to local charities. In his spare time, he enjoys fishing and spending time with his grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, Salvatore F. Perry is a true humanitarian who has contributed significantly to humanity and I take this opportunity to commend him for his great work.

IN APPRECIATION OF MILLBRAE
CITY TREASURER MARY VELLA
TRESLER

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, this evening the city of Millbrae, California will say thank you and farewell to a true public resource as City Treasurer Mary Vella Treseler retires from the post she has held for eight years.

Mary Vella Treseler was elected by the voters of Millbrae in 2001 and re-elected four years later. She brought thirty years of experience in the banking industry to her job and helped guide the city through the many challenges that local governments have had to deal with in recent years.

This City Treasurer, however, serves her community in many ways. She has donated her time and talents to the Constitution Bicentennial Planning Committee, Millbrae Beautification Commission and Public Access Television Committee. Ms. Treseler also took an active part as a member of the Mayor's Civic Coordinating Council and Millbrae's Smoking Ordinance and 50th Anniversary Committees. In addition, she represented Millbrae on the San Mateo County Sesquicentennial Committee and was President of Soroptimist International of Millbrae-San Bruno. As if that is not enough, Mary has somehow found the time to serve as President of the Millbrae Historical Society for the past eight years.

As should be expected, Mary is no stranger to civic honors. She was named "Millbrae Woman of the Year" in 1999 and is the recipient of the Millbrae Historical Society's "Living History Award."

Mary moved to Millbrae in 1977, where she and her husband, Joseph Amoroso, raised their children, Adonna and Joseph Raymond, in Millbrae schools. Sadly, Mary was widowed in 1985. Her response was to get more involved in her community, which began her quarter-century of service to Millbrae. In 1990, Mary married then-Mayor Robert Treseler and her involvement in local government increased. So, too, did her family as Mary embraced the addition of step-children Robert Jr, William, James and Catherine. Sadly, we lost Mayor Treseler two years ago.

Madam Speaker, this is a remarkable woman with boundless energy and a passionate interest in her community. On behalf of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives, I want to thank City Treasurer Mary Vella Treseler for her longtime service to the people of Millbrae and to our nation.

COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE ROBERT WEXLER

HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise with a mix of sorrow and optimism as we wish farewell to Congressman ROBERT WEXLER, a true friend, fellow New Yorker—by birth—and leader on the House Foreign Affairs Committee as he moves ahead in the next stage of his successful career. Congressman WEXLER leaves behind a great legacy as one of the first legislators to truly harness the great potential of a U.S.-Turkey partnership. This legacy is illustrated time and again through the warm reception Congressman WEXLER receives from even the most skeptical audiences in Turkey, Israel and the Middle East. His example reminds us all of the power of diplomacy and American values.

As an outspoken advocate for increased dialogue between the United States and Turkey, he has created an environment of increased stability, security and friendship for all people in not only the United States and Turkey, but throughout the Middle East. Turkey is a strong partner with the U.S. in combating terrorism, particularly in Iraq and Afghanistan. Turkey also is on the verge of a successful rapprochement with Armenia. Additionally, Turkey is actively engaged in facilitating multilateral negotiations that often complement U.S. foreign policy on delicate post-conflict matters, greater economic and trade cooperation and of course, global energy needs.

As a founding co-chair of the Turkish Caucus and the Chairman of the Europe subcommittee, Congressman WEXLER has played a key role in all of these achievements. Most recently, his work to facilitate greater communication between legislators in the U.S. and Turkey culminated in last month's announcement that the Congressional Turkish Caucus hit a record number of 104 Caucus members since its inception in 2001.

Though the departure of Congressman WEXLER is saddening and no doubt a huge loss to the Turkish-American community and the U.S. House of Representatives, I am encouraged that in his new position as president of the Center for Middle East Peace and Economic Cooperation he will continue to bestow his vision of greater peace and understanding upon legislators and world leaders alike.

I would like to thank Congressman WEXLER for his great service to this country and look forward to continuing to work with him to develop a long-lasting diplomatic relationship with our allies in Europe and the Middle East.

IN APPRECIATION OF REDWOOD
CITY COUNCILWOMAN DIANE
HOWARD

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, in an era of increased animosity in public life, Redwood City Councilwoman Diane Howard has been a

breath of fresh air. Fans of good government and humble leadership are sorry to see her retire after fifteen years serving the people of Redwood City.

Diane was born in Rockville Center, New York, the first of eight children. In 1981, after graduating from nursing school, she and husband Steve moved west. Upon arriving in Redwood City, Diane jumped into her community, serving on the Housing and Human Concerns Committee, Parks and Recreation Commission and Child Care Advisory Committee. She has also been active on the Economic Development Committee of the Redwood City Chamber of Commerce, the San Mateo County Medical Auxiliary Board, and the Redwood City Housing Advisory Board. Her work with the Redwood Shores Neighborhood Association led to the financing and development of schools, fire stations and a community center.

Diane was elected to the City Council in 1994 and was re-elected three times. Passionate about the issues of concern to her, Councilwoman Howard is nonetheless known for her kindness, warmth and positive attitude. Even those of opposing views will attest that Diane brought a new tone of civility to the City Council and its meetings. She is known for her patient willingness to listen to all points of view and has advocated for increased cooperation between City Hall, local businesses and community groups.

Madam Speaker, I have worked closely with Councilwoman Howard over the years and enjoyed every minute of our interactions. I wish there were more people in public life like her. On behalf of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives, I thank Diane for her service. I also wish to thank her husband, Steve, and son, Geoffrey, for sharing this remarkable woman with the greater community.

TRIBUTE TO MS. FLORENCE
LOGAN ON THE OCCASION OF
HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to express congratulations to Ms. Florence Logan of Hillside, Illinois on the occasion of her 100th birthday which took place on October 27, 2009.

Ms. Logan is one of rare individuals who have not only lived a long life, but have lived a long and productive life. She has been a bright shining star whose life has been a beacon of hope. She has been active in politics for many years. She worked as an Election Judge, volunteer, ran a family store in the Garfield Park Community before moving to Hillside. She and her husband were married for 72 years and represented the true essence of family. She and her husband have five children, twelve grandchildren, and fifteen great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, it is a great honor for me to offer this tribute to Ms. Logan, congratulate her on her accomplishments and wish her well as she continues a very productive life.

IN APPRECIATION OF REDWOOD
CITY COUNCILMAN JIM HARTNETT

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, Redwood City, California said good-bye to one of its most effective leaders when Councilman Jim Hartnett retired from public service this month.

Jim Hartnett is a story of "local boy makes good." Raised in Redwood City, he attended

Mount Carmel School, Sequoia High School and Cañada College. The son of a long-time captain in the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, Jim grew up well-versed in local issues and with a passion for public service. He, too, is passing on this tradition to his sons, Josh and Jake, and daughters, Julia and Lydia, all of whom have grown up in the city that Jim loves so much.

Anyone who has attended a Council meeting in Redwood City over the past fifteen years has witnessed Councilman Hartnett's intellect and ability to explain dry, complex issues in accessible language that everyone can understand. Equally important to thinking clearly is a public official's willingness to take the lead on contentious issues. Councilman Hartnett was never timid about speaking his mind and his constituents always knew where he stood. I have had the privilege of working with Jim on numerous thorny topics over the years and found him to be, not only quick to grasp the issues, but equally effective at developing solutions. His leadership will be sorely missed.

Prior to being elected to the City Council, Jim served on the city's Planning Commission and Charter Review Committee. He has also served as chair of the Housing and Human Concerns Committee and the San Mateo County Business Development Commission and was President of the Redwood City Chamber of Commerce.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Hartnett has given much to the community where he was raised. He has dedicated decades of his life to improving Redwood City and San Mateo County and for that, deserves our thanks. While he is retiring from office, I know that Jim Hartnett will not wander far. He will certainly continue his involvement with Redwood City Little League and other youth activities and will very likely be pressed into service in other ways by his wife, current Redwood City Mayor Rosanne Foust.